



CITY OF HARTFORD

ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FOOD POLICY

c/o Hartford Food System, 86 Park Street, Second Floor, Hartford, CT 06106
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Minutes of 11/14/2012 Meeting

Present: Martha Page, Ron Pitz, Katie Martin, Mary Lee Morrison, Andrew May, Danielle Smiley, Valentine Doyle
Absent: Dawn Crayco, Gloria McAdam, Brunella Ibarrola, Sofia Segura-Perez, Cary Wheaton, Mike Reid, Mike McGarry

Meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM. A quorum was not present, therefore the minutes of October could not be approved. Discussion ensued about whether a different meeting time might bring in more members in attendance. Martha will send out a Doodle poll for members to indicate times and days of the week that might work best to attend meetings. Consideration of adding youth to the commission might impact when we meet as well.

Report on School Breakfast Program

Martha reported for Dawn. Hartford is ranked next to last in the state for participation of students in the breakfast program who are receiving free or reduced lunches—percentage is 38% participation. There is interest within the city's Public Health Advisory Committee; Hartford's Health Director has shared the report with the mayor's office and the Department of Family, Children, Youth and Recreation. Improving participation has been a Commission recommendation. Our commission will likely be recommending an increase in the "Grab and Go" program district wide that is soon to be piloted at Hartford Public High School.

Childhood Obesity Results From Preschool Study

The mayor's office has taken an interest in this study which shows a very high rate of obesity in the city among preschoolers. A press conference will be held later this month to talk about the results. Martha also mentioned to the group about the Statewide Childhood Obesity forum to be held Monday, November 19th in the LOB. Featured speaker will be Kelly Brunelle from the Rudd Center at Yale.

Food Security Awards

A spring event is tentatively planned with the CT Forum to engage a wider audience in awareness of the issues. April is a possibility to hold it. It might be that an MPA student could be engaged to help with planning.

Food Price Survey

Katie reported that the survey is complete. Comparisons were made between mid-sized markets in Hartford and near ring suburbs. 40 markets were surveyed. One objective of the study has been to answer the question of healthy food accessibility for Hartford residents from retailers. Although analysis is just beginning, preliminary feedback indicates that mid-sized markets do have healthy, accessible and affordable food.

Urban Farming Ordinance—there has been no action from the Department of Health and Human Services as of yet. Martha will follow up. The point was raised as to the economic feasibility of urban agriculture.

Harvest Market was announced for November 17th from 10-1 to be held at Knox Parks with 5-6 farmers and ~20 vendors overall.

The next meeting will be **December** 12th. We can enumerate at that time some of the items for the 2012 Commission Report, including the issues around school breakfasts and the food market survey.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05